

Application No. 10/053,931
Election dated October 22, 2003
Reply to Office Action of July 25, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (original): A method for preparing a femur to receive a femoral stem, comprising:
making a posterior incision;
preparing a femur to receive a femoral stem through said posterior incision.

Claim 9 (original): The method of Claim 8, wherein said step of making a posterior incision comprises making a posterior incision substantially aligned with a central axis of a femoral shaft.

Claim 10 (original): The method of Claim 8, wherein said step of making a posterior incision comprises the step of making a posterior incision having a length of about 2.5 to 3 cm substantially aligned with a central axis of a femoral shaft.

Claim 11 (original): The method of Claim 9, wherein said step of making a posterior incision comprises making a step of making a posterior incision having a length of about 2.5 to 3 cm.

Claim 12 (original): The method of Claim 8, wherein said step of making a posterior incision comprises the step of making a posterior incision having a length of about 2 to 3 cm substantially aligned with a central axis of a femoral shaft.

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Claim 13 (original): The method of Claim 9, wherein said step of making a posterior incision comprises the step of making a posterior incision having a length of about 2 to 3 cm.

Claim 14 (original): The method of Claim 8, further comprising the following steps prior to said step of preparing a femur to receive a femoral stem through said posterior incision:

performing a blunt dissection to provide an access through said posterior incision to expose said femoral shaft; and

inserting a retractor into said access, said retractor comprising a tunnel size for insertion through said access, and wherein said step of preparing a femur to receive a femoral stem through said posterior incision comprises the step of preparing a femur to receive a femoral stem through said retractor.

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